

Mayor's Report for March 2015

The outlook for our community for 2015 is very positive. The issues that Council has had to deal with over the last few years are beginning to bear fruit. Our Fire Chief, Paul Boudreau, is implementing a strong plan for training our firefighters for future developments. Our law suit with Chaleur Sawmill is final after a twenty year battle and our employees continue to do an outstanding job in their day to day functions. The development of parallel trails for ATV'S and snowmobiles to access the Lodge is a plan that will develop tourism in our community. The Jacquet River Gorge is strategically located beside that Lodge and its beauty will support increased traffic and promote our community. The Mark Arsenault Gentleman Hockey Tournament will begin on March 23rd and is celebrating its 25th year anniversary. The R.C.M.P. has advised that the paperwork to develop a satellite office in the Jacquet River School is now in the hands of management for signatures. The R.C.M.P. Musical Ride will be in Belledune on June 12th and the organizers are looking forward to showcasing our community to those from the surrounding area. The continued development of the Veterans Memorial Park will be a place of pride for our community. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for late September and will be a highlight for our community.

Feb. 16, 2015 (5:30-6:00pm)

Council met to discuss the development of the Memorial Park and get some direction on the proposed layout.

Feb. 16, 2015 (6:00-6:45pm)

Council met with the Chaleur Drive Committee to discuss any ideas that would help in dealing with any future developments. Council and the Committee agreed to meet again in April to clarify any pending issues.

Feb. 16, 2015(7:00-8:30pm)

The monthly Public Meeting of Council was conducted and all agenda items were addressed.

Feb. 18, 2015

I attended a presentation in Beresford that discussed the development of the Trans-Canada trail. This trail is intended for Bicycles and walkers only. The presenters had a mandate to develop these trails and with all the issues that need to be addressed they will have their hands full.

Feb. 23, 2015

I attended a meeting of the Chaleur Regional Service Committee who invited the Minister of Local Government, Brian Kenny to attend. The meeting was attended by all the Mayors in the region along with Minister, Denis Landry and M.L.A. Daniel Guitard. The members discussed many problems, not only in their municipalities but in the area. Minister Kenny informed the membership that he is proposing many changes to the Municipalities Act however this will take time to implement. Ideas were shared and discussed to develop the North and the general consensus was that Belledune would play a major role in the economic recovery of the North.

March 4, 2015

I met with Minister, Bill Fraser who is the Minister for Tourism, Heritage and Culture. He is also responsible for the development fund of the North. I had the opportunity to express Belledune's interest directly to him in our one on one meeting. It was agreed that the Minister would come to Belledune and do a presentation for Council and the public during one of our monthly meeting in the very near future. I have already forwarded our schedule of meetings to his office and we will await confirmation of the date he will be in Belledune.

March 4, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Chaleur Regional Service Commission was conducted. The agenda items were addressed and there will be some items that will need to be discussed in the very near future.

March 6, 2015

I was present for the ceremony in Dalhousie to welcome new Provincial Judge, Landry to the bench. Many of the local Mayors were present along with many of the existing Judges who sit on the Provincial Queens Bench for the Province of New Brunswick. Deputy Premier, Justice Minister, and Public Safety Minister, Steven Horsman was also present for this very prestigious ceremony. I had the opportunity to discuss the “no through trucking” problem in our community with him. He advised to send this problem to his office for a recommendation on how to best address this issue of public safety.

March 9, 2015(6:00-6:45pm)

Council met with Mr. Duane Woods of Chaleur Sawmill to discuss the Governments proposal to re-evaluate the previous governments “Strategy for Crown Land Forest Management”. Mr. Woods informed Council on some very important issues that could and do effect the longevity of the mill. This mill is very important to many other operations in our region. We were informed that they supply bark to 4 local hospitals to reduce their cost on energy. They also have a payroll of \$8.6 million annually. We were also advised that 10,000 tons of bark is supplied to Shaw for their pellet operation and 1500 rail cars annually of lumber is shipped by the C.N.R. from their facility at a cost of \$9 million annually. Mr. Woods confirmed that it takes 540,000 cubic meters of wood annually to keep the mill in operation and they are responsible to creatively find over 180,000 cubic meters because the government issued allotment is not adequate enough to sustain the full time operation of the mill.

March 9, 2015 (7:00-8:00pm)

The monthly Committee of the Whole meeting was conducted and the agenda items were addressed. All went very well and our Public meeting will confirm by motion where we go from here.

March 12, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Restigouche Crime Stoppers unit was conducted and all members are beginning to prepare for the June 12th Musical Ride. All members will participate in the event and all other agenda items were addressed.

In closing, it will be very important for Council to recognize that 2015 will be their final opportunity to make any major impact on their community. We will prepare the budget for the next Council with the Election in May, 2016. I will recommend that any ideas or projects that you believe should be addressed in 2015, be brought forward very soon. I would also recommend that Council choose a date to look at the "STRATEGIC PLAN" that is in place now. The Plan should be updated, revised or changed to reflect the needs and desires of our community.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Bourque". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Ron Bourque
Mayor